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Bulletin of the City Art Museum of St. Louis

Theodore, St. Alexander, St. Demetrius, St. Constantine, St. Gabriel, in addition to the Savior and the Virgin Mary.
J. M. W.

A PAINTING BY CHILDE
HASSAM

THE East Window, by Childe Hassam, was acquired from the Exhibition of Selected American Paintings, in October, for the permanent collection of The City Art Museum. It represents the figure of a woman standing before a window through which the white light of outdoors enters, but not without the added filter of a white curtain of thin material. The subject is a favorite one with Mr. Hassam, offering him as an impressionist an opportunity to display technical skill in the manipulation of light.

The statuesque figure is clad in a garment made iridescent through impressionistic handling—the distinguishing trait of Mr. Hassam's work. Mr. Hassam, more than any other painter, has shown us how our country, our cities such as New York, our streets such as Fifth Avenue, appear through the eyes of an impressionist.

VESPERS

By GARI MELCHERS

A PAINTING by Gari Melchers, which the Museum has acquired, is called *Vespers* and shows the interior of a church, lighted in the manner of the Dutch interiors of Pieter de Hooch. Sunlight comes into the room in places, and other lights penetrate through windows and are reflected from one object to another.

The theme is a simple one: a wall with two windows by which white light is entering, relieved by the vigorous and delicate color of old stained glass; two rows of pews against a



GARI MELCHERS

VESPERS

wall; a man and four women worshipping. Mr. Melchers, in a manner quite foreign to his earlier style, has subordinated the figures and laid the stress not on powerful figure painting, but on the effect of light and color in a white church.

The artist was born in Detroit, studied under Boulanger and Lefebvre, and was made at the Ecole des Beaux Arts a member of the Cour Yvon. This was a famous group of students in Paris whose custom it was to assemble for an hour in the afternoon and draw from a model.

It is the strength, power and sincerity of his figure painting that has made him famous, first throughout Europe and subsequently in his own country. At the early age of twenty-six, a Dutch painting by him, *The Sermon*, won an Honorable Mention in the Salon. Three years later he was awarded the Medal of Honor, a distinction that has been conferred upon only three American painters—Melchers, Sargent, and Whistler.

The Luxembourg owns his painting, *Maternity*; his *Family* is in the National Gallery of Berlin, his *Man with a Cloak* is in Rome, and his frescoes, *War and Peace*, are in the Library of Congress at Washington.



CHILDE HASSAM

THE EAST WINDOW

monographs on the Fauna and Flora on Roman coins. The religious feature, however, is probably the most interesting—it is essentially polytheistic. Beginning with Janus, Jupiter, Minerva and Hercules on the oldest Republican coins, we soon find Mars, Mercury, Juno, Venus, Vesta, Ceres and a host of lesser divinities, such as

Fortuna, Honor and Virtus, displayed on the coins; in Imperial times the deified Julius, Augustus and other emperors were added, as well as sundry Eastern divinities, such as the Egyptian Isis, the Persian Sungod and Mithras. Finally, in late East Roman times a large array of saints appear, notably St. George, St. Michael, St.